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Pagan Races of the Malay Peninsula.¹—The two handsome volumes of over 1500 pages constitute unquestionably the most important contribution to the knowledge of the less civilized peoples of southeastern Asia. The work, according to the authors (p. VII et seq.) claims to belong to the scope of “descriptive ethnography,” but this is rather an unfortunate term because of its redundancy; the text, with the exception of somatological notes, comes wholly under ‘ethnology,’ as understood in this country. It is “essentially a compilation from many sources, but differs from most books of that kind, first, in being based to a very large extent on materials hitherto unpublished, and accessible only through private channels of information; and secondly, in having been constructed with special knowledge of the subject and in a critical spirit.” It is a work of “many facts, but few hypotheses,” and should be regarded not solely as a monograph on the tribes dealt with, “but also as a necessary preliminary to a general scientific survey of the races of southern Indo-China and the Malay Peninsula” — which survey is strongly advocated. The objectionable term “pagan,” used in the title as a discriminative of races is justified by the opinion that “the point of religion (as between Mohammedan and non-Mohammedan) was perhaps a better dividing line, on account of its definiteness, than the vague, indefinite, and perhaps undefinable, quality of wildness.” The bulk of the book was written by Skeat, the attention of Blagden being confined to language.

The contents of the two volumes, besides preface, bibliography, and introduction, are, vol. I: Racial characters and affinities; Notes on diseases; food, stimulants, narcotics; dress; habitations; hunting, trapping, and fishing, barter; weapons and implements; cultivation; arts and crafts; decorative art; social order; dealings with other races; and place and personal names. Vol. II: Birth-customs and beliefs; maturity customs and beliefs; marriage customs and beliefs; burial customs and beliefs; music, songs, and feasts; natural religion and folk-lore; and language. Both volumes are provided with abundant illustrations, nearly all of which are photographs.

The reading of the book reveals a mass of details such as has been brought together in few other works, and which will be of great utility in further studies of the peoples of the Malay Peninsula, as well as that from the mainland further north and the islands to the southward.

Three distinct racial types are recognized, namely the Semang, or

¹ Skeat, W. W., and Chas. O. Blagden. *Pagan Races of the Malay Peninsula*. 2 vols., 8vo, London (Macmillan & Co.), 1906. 42/net.

Negrito, the Sakai, of suggested Dravidian ancestry, and the Jakun, or aboriginal Malay. They differ principally in head form, physiognomy, and nature of the hair. The Semang are meso- to brachycephalic, with woolly hair, and features approaching, in a number of particulars, the negro; the Sakai are dolichocephalic, with wavy hair and finer features; the Jakun are brachycephalic, with straight hair and with the features of the Malay in general. All are short in stature, but the Semang are the smallest. In color the Semang are chocolate-brown to black, the Sakai and Jakun ranging from brown to yellowish. Both the Sakai and Jakun show numerous instances of admixture with the Negrito.

The chapters on the foods and mode of life of the individual tribes are valuable; but the diseases of the people, their environment, and especially their physiology are far from being treated adequately. The total number of the 'pagan' aboriginies of the Malay Peninsula appears to be no more than 35,000 or 40,000.

For the mass of details concerning the habits, religion, folk-lore and language of the tribes the reader must be referred to the original.

The book as a whole will not be found easy reading. This is partly due to its plan, including several appendices, partly to the many native names, and in some degree to the style of the authors. More tabulation would have been of help. However, the work must be regarded not as a narrative, but more as a reference hand-book of the tribes of the Malay Peninsula, and as such it will be highly appreciated by every student of that region. For this purpose, however, a more copious index, and page references instead of the occasional "will be found in another part of the work," would have been desirable.

The illustrations are not always satisfactory. There are a number of photographs that show but little, and a few (*e. g.* the "Kedah-Raman," "Kedah," superior plane of the Semang skull, the "Semang of Grit," the "Sakai at G. Kerbu," the "Group of Ulu Jelai Sakai") which are wholly useless, being out of focus. It is not easy to see what was the object of the authors or publishers in including these pictures with the many others which are of real value.

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Growth of Parisian Children.¹—The paper presents the results of the determinations of height and weight of 4400 children from various

¹ Tables de croissance des enfants Parisiens de I a 16 ans. Par MM. Variot et Chaumet. Bull. & Mém. Soc. d'Anthrop. Paris, Vme Sér., VII, No. 2, pp. 51-65.